

Remarks

Responsive to the Office action of November 29, 2005, Applicants provide the following remarks. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully submitted. As of the November 29th Office action, claims 1-8, 11-14, and 17-20 were pending.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 11-14 and 17-19, and for recognizing the allowable subject matter of claims 3-8. Claims 3, 6, and 7 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 6, and 7, as well as any claim depending thereupon, are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,140,727). Independent claims 1 and 20 have been cancelled herein, rendering the rejection thereof moot. Claim 2 has been amended to depend upon claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 2 is similarly believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 in view of the amendments herein is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all of the outstanding rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

The application has been amended herein to cancel independent claims 1 and 20 and to rewrite claims 3, 6 and 7 in independent form. Accordingly, this response has added one additional independent claim. The fee necessitated by the additional independent claim accompanies this response. In the even of any fee deficiencies, or that additional fees are payable, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2121 as necessary.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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